

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please **AMEND** claim 1 as follows.

Please **ADD** claims 28 and 29 as follows.

This Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A device for connecting and locking building boards comprising a top side and a bottom side, having a core made of wood material and provided with a groove on at least two opposite side edges, comprising an insert intended for locking purposes, which insert can be inserted into the groove of one of the side edges, the boards being connected by substantially horizontal displacement one toward the other, wherein the insert is provided with one resilient lip extending upward from a first side edge directed toward the top side of the insert, and another resilient lip extending downward from a second side edge directed toward the bottom side of the insert, and

wherein at least one of the one resilient lip and the another resilient lip compresses toward a center of the insert and then springs back out from the center of the insert when the boards are connected by the substantially horizontal displacement.

2. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the one and another resilient lips are directed in opposite directions.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein each resilient lip has a tip running obliquely to the top side and bottom side, which tip, for locking, cooperates with an obliquely running edge.

5. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the insert is plastic.

6. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the insert has in its core at least one cavity.

7. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the insert has midway between the one and another resilient lips a projection which rests on a shoulder, running parallel to the bottom side of the bottom lip of the groove.

8. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein when the building boards are mutually connected, the insert is essentially fully surrounded in its peripheral contour by the core material of the boards.

9. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the angle of inclination between the obliquely running edge measures between 90° and 135° .

10. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thickness of the insert measures 1.5-5 mm.

11. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the depth of penetration of the insert into the groove is 3-8 mm.

12. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the flexural modulus of the plastic is 1000-7000 N/mm².

13. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the board is provided on one side edge with a tongue pointing substantially in the transverse direction and on the other side edge with a groove corresponding thereto.

14. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the side edges of the insert taper outward.

15. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 14, wherein the side edges of the insert are rounded.

16. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 14, wherein the side edges of the insert run conically.

17. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the insert is inserted into a groove at the factory.

18. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 17, wherein the insert is permanently connected to the groove of one of the side edges.

19. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the insert is glued in place.

20. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the grooves are cut with a fixed tool past which the boards are led.

21. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the one resilient lip extends from the first side edge toward a center of the insert and has a length greater than half the distance between the first side edge and the center of the insert, and

the another resilient lip extends from the second side edge toward the center of the insert and has a length greater than half the distance between the second side edge and the center of the insert.

22. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 21, wherein each of the one and another resilient lips includes:

a fixed end attached to a body of the insert,

a free end opposite the fixed end, and

an oblique tip at the free end, which, for locking, is structured and arranged to cooperate with an obliquely running edge of the building board.

23. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 21, wherein the insert comprises:

an upper surface step-shaped profile that allows the first resilient lip to be compressed;

and

a lower surface step-shaped profile that allows the second resilient lip to be compressed.

24. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein when the building boards are mutually connected:

the insert is essentially fully surrounded in its peripheral contour by the core material of the building boards, and

an upper surface of the insert abuts a lip of one of the building boards, the lip defining a groove that receives a tongue of another one of the building boards.

25. (Withdrawn) A device for connecting and locking first and second building boards comprising a top side, a bottom side, and a core made of wood material, the first building board having a tongue on a first side edge, the second building board having a groove corresponding to the tongue on a second side edge, the first and second building boards being connected by substantially horizontal displacement one toward the other, the device comprising an insert having:

a lower lip matched in cross section with a first cavity formed in the tongue of the first building board; and

a resilient lip extending from the lower lip at an angle of inclination corresponding to an angle of a first edge of a second cavity formed in the groove of the second building board,

wherein the resilient lip further includes an obliquely running tip that corresponds to and abuts a second, oblique edge of the second cavity when the tongue is inserted in the groove and the first and second building boards are assembled in a connected state.

26. (Withdrawn) A device for connecting and locking first and second building boards comprising a top side, a bottom side, and a core made of wood material, the first building board having a first groove on a first side edge, the second building board having a second groove on a second side edge, the first and second building boards being connected by substantially horizontal displacement one toward the other, the device comprising an insert having:

- a body including a first outer end and a second outer end;
- a first resilient lip on a bottom of the body and extending downward from the first outer end toward a center of the body;
- a second resilient lip on the bottom of the body and extending downward from the second outer end toward the center of the body; and
- a projection on the bottom of the body at the center of the body between the first and second resilient lips,

wherein when the first and second building boards are assembled in a connected state, the insert is structured and arranged such that:

- a first oblique tip of the first resilient lip abuts a first oblique running edge within the first groove of the first building board,
- a second oblique tip of the second resilient lip abuts a second oblique running edge within the second groove of the second building board, and

the projection rests on upwardly projecting crosspieces of the first and second grooves above the first and second oblique running edges.

27. (Withdrawn) A device for connecting and locking floor panels comprising a top side and a bottom side, at least two opposite side edges, and respective grooves in each side edge, the device comprising: an insert that is formed from a core which extends in a transverse direction and that is inserted in the respective grooves, the insert comprising a first resilient lip at a first end and a second resilient lip at a second end, the first and second resilient lips extending back to a center of the core and each comprising a tip which cooperates with an inclined edge for locking the floor panels, the floor panels being connected by substantially horizontal displacement,

wherein each side edge comprises only a single groove of the respective grooves, each single groove has a lower lip whereby when the floor panels are connected the insert is substantially surrounded with the core material of the floor panels, the first and second resilient lips are directed toward the bottom side, the insert comprises a protrusion located centrally between the first and second resilient lips and supported onto a ledge, the ledge being a part of the lower lip and running parallel to the bottom side.

28. (New) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the one resilient lip extending upward from the first side edge is the only lip that extends upward from the first side edge, and

the another resilient lip extending downward from the second side edge is the only lip that extends downward from the second side edge.

29. (New) The device as claimed in claim 28, wherein:

each resilient lip has a tip running obliquely to the top side and bottom side, the tip, for locking, cooperates with an obliquely running edge,

when the boards are mutually connected, the insert is essentially fully surrounded in its peripheral contour by the core made of wood material of the boards,

the insert comprises a core having at least one cavity, and

the board is provided on one side edge with a tongue pointing substantially in the transverse direction and on the other side edge with a groove corresponding thereto.